

out \$50,000,000 of stocks and bonds in 1914 without asking the public utilities commission for the right to issue the securities. The fees on these securities would be \$40,000.

By going ahead without paying any attention to the commission, the insull crowd has beaten the people of Illinois out of \$40,000 of fees, says the petition.

That isn't the worst of it, however. The watered stock forces the users of electric light and power to pay rates based on a false capitalization, it is alleged. The kilowatt hour rate of the Commonwealth Edison is 10 cents as against 3 cents in Winnipeg, 3 cents in Cleveland and Columbus, 7 cents in Toledo, O., 8 cents in New York, Syracuse and Rochester. Rates are lower in nearly all other large American cities.

The Commonwealth Edison Co., capitalized at \$80,698,054 is not worth over \$55,000,000, the petition says.

WESTERN UNION HAS SPIES, IS TESTIMONY

Special agents to spot union men are at work all over the Western Union Telegraph Co. system, President Newcomb Carlton stated to the U. S. industrial relations commission today. Only under pressure of close questioning by Chairman Walsh and Commissioner Garretson did Carlton admit these special agents make reports and the company discharges union men so reported. He didn't know what salaries they get, nor expens accounts.

"Who controls th special agents?" Carlton was asked.

"I don't like those fellows and I don't know much about them," he answered while laughter swept the room.

He said he didn't know anything definite about the threat of the company in 1908 to take away the leased wires of the United Press unless the U. P. broke its contract with the telegraphers' union.

"As a matter of history, are not

you, the president of the company, familiar with that matter?" Walsh asked.

"I could not say anything about that. I must refer you to Mr. Belvidere Brooks, our vice president," was the reply.

BROKER FARSON INDICTED WITH SEVEN OTHERS

Eight indictments alleging frauds through sale of millions of dollars' worth of bonds in an irrigation project, it was announced today, were secretly returned last week against promoters of the project.

The following were indicted on two counts charging conspiracy to violate the postal laws and perpetration of fraud through the mails:

Charles F. Tew, lawyer and politician of Greeley, Col.; William S. Hiff, millionaire capitalist of Denver; Samuel H. Shields, millionaire capitalist of Denver.

The following were indicted on charges of violation of postal laws:

William Farson of Farson & Co., Chicago; John Farson, Jr., New York representative of Farson & Co.; Geo. S. Osborne, formerly of Chicago, now of Cheyenne, Wyo.; Roy A. H. Thompson of Chicago; Harry B. Parrett of Chicago.

SCENTED "FOWL" PLAY

New York.—Mrs. Joseph Guy saw a mysterious man and woman drop a package from the rail of a ferry boat. Volunteer crime detectors dragged the river and found a dead rooster wrapped in paper.

HIS WATCH SAVED HIM

New York. — Herman Oetjen can thank his gold watch for saving his life. Burglar who tried to stick him up in his store fired point blank at Oetjen. Bullet struck watch.

What are those floating mine fishers kicking about anyhow? Isn't it a darned sight better to fish for floating mines than not to fish at all?